GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2479
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2016
Satellite Mapping of Monuments
Marutharajaa Shri R.P.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to create a repository of satellite based surveillance photographs on more than 3000 protected monuments that are under threat from frenzied construction activity in the country and 1,50,000 heritage structures across the country will also be added in the data base in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have joined hands in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL AVIATION

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a)&(b) There are 3686 monuments under the control of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) with the help of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), ASI is creating a repository of satellite based maps of all 3686 monuments. As regards other heritage structures, though their inclusion in a database is a cherished outcome, without proven technological solution that would be cost effective, it would not be prudent to make any commitment at this stage.

(c)&(d) Archaeological Survey of India entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Remote Sensing Centre, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for preparation of satellite based maps indicating prohibited and regulated areas clearly for the information of public and also to facilitate procedure for grant of permissions for construction related activity within prohibited and regulated areas of all centrally protected monuments. So far 3686 centrally protected monuments are covered under the scope of MoU. ISRO has a repository of photographs of various monument sites that have been taken at periodic intervals. Using these photographs that are taken routinely through satellites over a period of time and combining them with the map-plotted boundaries of plots for which permissions under AMASR Act have been given, a surveillance system is within the realm of technological possibility.